

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 16593 052218Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 USIA-06
PA-01 L-03 IO-13 ACDA-07 /088 W
-----071259 060922Z /13

R 051752Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2050
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16593

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XF, IS, US, UR, GW
SUBJECT: FRG REACTION TO JOINT US-SOVIET STATEMENT
ON MIDDLE EAST

REFS: (A) BONN 16424; (B) SECTO 10023 (EXDIS)

1. THE FONOFF DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS
(BOECKER) HAS TOLD US THAT THE PRINCIPLE POINT OF
INTEREST FOR THE FRG IN THE US-SOVIET DECLARATION WAS
THE US-SOVIET AGREEMENT TO RETURN TO GENEVA BEFORE THE
END OF THE YEAR. THE FRG BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT TO
RESUME THE CONFERENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO
MAINTAIN MOMENTUM TOWARD AN EVENTUAL MIDDLE EAST
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SETTLEMENT. IT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AS A MEANS
OF DEMONSTRATING TO THE ISRAELIS THAT SOME ACTION WAS
NECESSARY ON THEIR PART. THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE
WOULD, TO A LARGE EXTENT, DEPEND ON THE SOVIET POSITION
IN GENEVA. WHILE A RESPONSIBLE SOVIET POSITION WOULD BE
AN IMPORTANT IMPETUS TOWARD PROGRESS, MOSCOW ALSO
MAINTAINED THE CAPABILITY OF HINDERING MOVEMENT E.G.,

BY DEMANDING A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT STATE FOR THE
PALESTINIANS.

2. BOECKER OBSERVED THAT HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THE
US-SOVIET DECLARATION, AS AMPLIFIED BY THE SECRETARY
AND THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, DID NOT REPRESENT A
CHANGE IN THE US POSITION. REFERRING TO THE NEGATIVE
ISRAELI REACTION TO THE DECLARATION, BOECKER
SPECULATED THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE TAKING AN ESPECIALLY
HARD LINE NOW SO AS TO MAKE FUTURE CONCESSIONS--WHICH
HE BELIEVED THEY WERE READY TO MAKE--APPEAR ALL THE MORE
SIGNIFICANT. HE BELIEVED ISRAEL REALIZED IT COULD NOT
IN THE LONG RUN MAINTAIN ITS HOLD ON THE WEST BANK, BUT
THAT TEL AVIV WANTED TO USE IT FOR BARGAINING LEVERAGE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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